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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GWOT: GUANTANAMO; SAO PAULO

"Closing Guantanamo"

Political writer Marcos Nobre maintained in liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (2/12): "The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have practically disappeared from political debates in the US, as if the public opinion battle against Bush had already been won. But things are not that simple. Connected with Iraq is Guantanamo, the American base in Cuba where prisoners of what the conservatives call 'war against terror' have been kept. There has been torture in Guantanamo, and there the prisoners are not formally accused or have habeas corpus rights. The four main presidential candidates have already said that they favor the closing of that prison. Closing Guantanamo is certainly important, but it does not resolve a basic problem: the flagrant violation of fundamental rights.... And today Guantanamo is not an isolated case. France has just approved legislation allowing in principle to keep a prisoner in jail for life even after his punishment is over."

White